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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A SECURE SYSTEM TIME**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention discloses a system and method for providing a secured system time reference to a subscriber device, e.g., a set top box or a receiver. In one embodiment, the system time reference is provided in a secure system time message that is broadcasted to a plurality of subscriber devices. Each subscriber device has a security device or software application that is capable of determining whether the received system time reference is legitimate. If the system time reference is determined to be legitimate, a local time reference is synchronized with said received system time reference.

16 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets